HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—*Wednesday, July 21, 1999*

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BURR of North Carolina).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 21, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BURR to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Richard A. Lord, Rector, Church of the Holy Comforter, Vienna, Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Most gracious and ever-living God, You have brought us in safety to the beginning of this new day. In this quiet moment we humbly acknowledge Your presence in our lives and in our world. O God, we are thankful for the sheer wonder and mystery of human life, for the gifts of memory, reason and skill that shape our common work, and for the hope that our deliberations and decisions on this day will unfold against the background of Your loving design. Give us forbearance and mutual respect for one another. Help us to perceive what is noble and good, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it to the glory of Your name and the welfare of all people.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DUNCAN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed a concurrent resolution of the following title, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 46. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that the July 20, 1999, 30th anniversary of the first lunar landing should be a day of celebration and reflection on the Apollo-11 mission to the Moon and the accomplishments of the Apollo program throughout the 1960's and 1970's.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 15 1-minutes on each side.

WELCOME TO REVEREND RICHARD A. LORD

(Mr. DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure today to welcome the Reverend Richard A. Lord to the House of Representatives. We all heard the prayer from the Reverend this morning.

Reverend Richard A. Lord is Rector of the Church of the Holy Comforter in Vienna, Virginia. The Church of the Holy Comforter was established in 1895 and is one of the five largest Episcopal churches in the Diocese of Virginia, with over 1,700 families. Holy Comforter is a church active in youth ministry, mission outreach programs and spiritual formation for people living active and busy Northern Virginia lives.

Reverend Lord grew up in Potomac, Maryland, where his father was rector of an Episcopal church for many years. He received a masters of Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary and a masters of Sacred Theology from Yale Divinity School. Father Lord served as associate rector and interim rector of the Church of the Apostles in Fairfax, Virginia, and as the rector of churches in Monroeville, Pennsylvania, and East Haven, Connecticut. He returned to the Washington area and accepted the call to be rector of the Church of the Holy Comforter.

Reverend Lord has a strong ministry of worship, education and mission, and he is also an accomplished musician. He and his wife, Debbie, have three children, Rebecca, David, and Julia. Under Father Lord's leadership, the Church of the Holy Comforter has grown dramatically and continues to be a source of spiritual and community growth in Fairfax County. We are pleased to have him offer the opening prayer today.

PROTECTING AMERICA'S CHILDREN

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, each year more than 1,000 of America's children are abducted and taken out of the United States to foreign countries by noncustodial parents. One such child, Mikey Kale from Nevada, was abducted by his biological father and taken to war-torn Croatia. Mikey was just 6 years old at the time and his parents were recently divorced.

Their divorce decree gave sole legal custody to Mikey's mom, but his father, who had visitation but no custodial rights, was able to obtain a passport for Mikey and subsequently and successfully abduct him, kidnapping him to Croatia.

Fortunately, Mikey Kale made it back to his mom. Yet, it is an inconceivable but irrefutable fact that once a child is taken from the U.S., it is nearly impossible to get that child returned. Clearly, prevention is the key for protecting our children from international parental child abduction.

I have an amendment today on the floor to help safeguard against these family tragedies, an amendment to make it more difficult for would-be child abductors to obtain passports for children by ensuring certain requirements are met before the issuance of a passport for a child under the age of 14. I urge all of my colleagues to support passage of this amendment, an amendment to protect America's children.

GOP TAX PLAN

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, the massive tax cut of the Republican Party nearly three-quarters of $1 trillion is totally irresponsible. It stands in the way of strengthening Medicare and Social Security, and threatens the progress we have made in eliminating

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□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.